

# Web of Life

**Subject:** Science

**Objective:** Students will be able to analyze how organisms are linked to one another in the environment.

**Materials:**

- area large enough for class to stand in a circle
- one large ball of yarn

**Procedure:**

1. Have students stand in a circle.
2. Tell each student to think of an animal or plant.
3. Teacher begins by sharing the name of an animal or plant.
4. After naming the animal, the teacher holds on to the end of the yarn and tosses the ball of yarn to someone in the circle.
5. The person who now has the yarn names an animal or plant, holds the string and tosses the ball of yarn to someone in the circle who has not had a turn. This continues until all students are holding onto the yarn. A web will be created.
6. Go around the circle again having the students repeat their choice.
7. Tell the students as a group they will be playing “Mother Nature” and must decide what animal or plant should disappear. Hold a vote. When it is decided who shall be the unfortunate ‘victim,’ tell that person to let go of the yarn. When others feel the tightness of the yarn leaving their hands, they should let go of their piece, as well. All of the yarn will eventually fall to the ground.
8. Talk about how all things are connected.
9. If your library has a copy of Brother Eagle, Sister Sky. A Message from Chief Seattle by Susan Jeffers, share it with your students. It has great illustrations and the message it conveys is pointed, poignant, powerful and relates well to this activity. Reviews do say, however, it is not an accurate account of the speech.
10. Or, go to <http://training.fws.gov/deo/endang/index.html> and you can download a slide show presentation about endangered species!

